

Chapter 27

PLUMBING¹

- Art. I. In General, §§ 27-1 -- 27-20**
Art. II. Plumbers, §§ 27-21 -- 27-70
Div. 1. Generally, §§ 27-21 -- 27-35
Div. 2. Board Of Examiners, §§ 27-36 -- 27-55
Div. 3. Certificates Of Competency,
§§ 27-56 -- 27-70

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 27-1. Code adopted.

The Standard Plumbing Code, 1997 edition, one (1) copy of which is, and has been on file in the Office of the City Council Clerk for more than fifteen (15) days, is hereby adopted as the official Plumbing Code of the City.

(Code 1986, § 27-1; Ord. No. 9360, § 1, 5-8-90; Ord. No. 9654, § 10, 1-6-92; Ord. No. 10175, § 1, 3-7-95; Ord. No. 10678, § 1, 3-10-98)

Cross references--Building code adopted, § 10-1; electrical code adopted, § 14-2; National Fire Protection Association's fire prevention code adopted § 17-1; Gas code adopted, § 19-1.

State law reference--Adoption of codes by reference authorized, T.C.A., § 6-54-502.

Sec. 27-2. Appendices to code adopted.

The following appendices to the Standard Plumbing Code, 1997 edition, and as further amended in this chapter, are hereby adopted as part of the official Plumbing Code of the City.

- Appendix A, Permit Fees (as amended)*
Appendix B, Rates of Rainfall
Appendix C, Gray Water Recycling System
Appendix D, Degree Day Temperatures
Appendix E, Sizing of Water Piping
Appendix F, Structural Safety

(Code 1986, § 27-2, Ord. No. 9360, § 2, 5-8-90; Ord. No. 10175, § 2, 3-7-95; Ord. No. 10678, § 2, 3-10-98)

¹ **Cross reference**--Water and gas mains, § 31-266 et seq.; type and maintenance of plumbing facilities of public swimming pools, § 33-37.

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Sec. 27-3. Amendments to code adopted.

The following sections and appendices of the Standard Plumbing Code, 1997 edition, are hereby amended, as hereinafter provided:

Section 109. Board of Adjustments & Appeals, is amended by striking such Section in its entirety, and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

Section 109. Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals for the Mechanical Codes of the City of Chattanooga as established by Section 2-425, Part II, Chattanooga City Code, shall act as the Board of Adjustments and Appeals for appeals from any decision of the Building Official or his designee and consider variances of the technical codes as provided in this Code.

Section 305.6.1, Sewer Depth, is amended by substituting the words “Twelve (12) inches” for the phrase “[NUMBER] inches (mm)” wherever such phrase appears within this subsection.

Section 424.4, Shower Valves, Exception, is amended by deleting the phrase “one- or two-family dwelling and” from the first sentence of the Exception to this subsection.

Section 504.7.3, Materials, is amended by striking said section and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

“504.7.3 – Relief valve discharge piping and safety pan drains shall be made of Type M copper or of equivalent material approved by the Chief Plumbing Official.”

Section 904.1, Roof Extension, is amended by substituting the words “Six (6) inches” for the phrase “[NUMBER] inches (mm)” wherever such phrase appears within this subsection.

Section 917, Air Admittance Valves for Venting Plumbing Fixtures and Fixture Branches, is amended by adding a new section 917.9 which shall read as follows:

“917.9 – Any use of air admittance valves or fixture branches is subject to the discretion and approval of the Chief Plumbing Official.”

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Section 918. Engineered Vent Systems, is amended by deleting said section and all subsections of it in its entirety.

Appendix A, Permit Fees, as amended is adopted as follows:

AMENDED APPENDIX A PERMIT FEES

Permit Fees:

For issuing each permit..... \$ 20.00

Plus the following when provided:

For each Plumbing Fixture, Floor Drain or Trap (including Water and Drainage Piping)	5.00/ea.
For each Building Sewer	8.00/ea.
For each Building Sewer having to be replaced or repaired	8.00/ea.
For each Water Heater and/or Vent	5.00/ea.
For installation, alteration or repair of water piping and/or water treating equipment.....	8.00/ea.
For repair or alteration of Drainage or Vent Piping	8.00/ea.
For each Pressure Reducing Device and each Check Valve Assembly-- One to Five.....	5.00/ea.
Over Five, each	3.00/ea.
For Vacuum Breakers or backflow protective devices installed subsequent to the installation of the piping or equipment served-- One to Five.....	5.00/ea.
Over Five, each	3.00/ea.
For each Grease or Oil Interceptor.....	5.00/ea.
Other Miscellaneous Items, each	5.00/ea.
Sanitary Sewer Connection	70.00
Lateral Sewer provided.....	800.00
Re-inspection fee	25.00

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The adoption of the 1997 Standard Plumbing Code by the City of Chattanooga does not include the 1997 Standard Private Sewage Disposal Code and/or any appendices thereof. (Code 1986, § 27-3; Ord. No. 9360, § 3, 5-8-90; Ord. No. 10175, § 3, 3-7-95; Ord. No. 10678, § 3, 3-10-98; Ord. No. 11175, § 31, 9-11-01)

Secs. 27-4 -- 27-20. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. PLUMBERS²

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 27-21. Liabilities not affected.

This article shall not be construed to relieve from or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, operating, controlling or installing any plumbing, devices, appliances, equipment, or sewer for damage to persons or property caused by any defect therein, nor shall the city be held as assuming any liability by reason of the examination authorized herein or the license and certificate issued as herein provided.

(Code 1986, § 27-21)

Sec. 27-22. Identification of vehicles.

Every licensed master plumber shall identify any vehicles regularly used in the installation of plumbing with his certificate number and his name or the name of the company with whom he is associated in letters and numerals not less than three (3) inches high on each side of such vehicles; any other vehicle used by a master plumber in the installation of plumbing shall be likewise identified while being so used.

(Code 1986, § 27-22)

Sec. 27-23. Masters to carry worker's compensation insurance, give bond.

(a) Master plumbers shall also be required to maintain:

² **Cross references**--Electricians, § 14-31 et seq.; gas fitters and installers, § 19-51 et seq.

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- (1) Worker's compensation insurance as required by the laws of the state; and
- (2) Performance and indemnity bond as required by the Standard Plumbing Code, as amended, as may, from time to time, be adopted.

(b) A copy of the holder's current performance indemnity bond shall be provided to the board created by section 27-36 of this Code and to the inspection department of the city.
(Code 1986, § 27-23)

Secs. 27-24 -- 27-35. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. BOARD OF EXAMINERS³

Sec. 27-36. Created; appointment, qualifications.

There is hereby created a board of plumbing examiners for the city to be composed of five (5) persons, four (4) of whom shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to the approval of the city council; two (2) of whom shall be master employer plumbers with not less than five (5) years' practical experience, one being a union employer and one being a nonunion employer and two (2) of whom shall be journeyman plumbers with not less than five (5) years practical experience, one being a union plumber and the other being a nonunion plumber, and the fifth member of the board shall be the chief plumbing inspector of the city.

(Code 1986, § 27-36; Ord. No. 9654, § 1, 1-6-92)

Sec. 27-37. Terms; oath; removal.

All members of the board created under this division shall hold office for two (2) years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Before entering upon their duties each member of such board shall take and subscribe to an oath to faithfully and fairly discharge his duty, without fear, favor or partiality, and to the best of his ability. The mayor may, subject to the approval of a majority of the city council, discharge any member of such board at any time for good cause, and appoint a successor.

(Code 1986, § 27-37; Ord. No. 9654, § 1, 1-6-92)

Sec. 27-38. Organization; officers.

³ **Cross reference--**Board of examiners of gas fitters and installers, § 19-66 et seq.

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As soon as practical after the appointment and qualification of the members of the board created under this division, they shall meet and organize and select a chairman and a vice-chairman. The chief plumbing inspector of the city shall serve as secretary and treasurer of such board.
(Code 1986, § 27-38)

Sec. 27-39. Meetings.

Sessions of the board created under this division shall be held semiannually for the purpose of conducting examinations. A special meeting may be called by the chairman with the approval of a majority of the board, at a time and place designated.
(Code 1986, § 27-39)

Sec. 27-40. Compensation.

The members of the board shall serve without compensation.
(Code 1986, § 27-40)

Sec. 27-41. Regulations authorized; printing required.

The board created under this division may promulgate rules and regulations not inconsistent with this article, and in such event shall have such rules and regulations printed for distribution.
(Code 1986, § 27-41)

Sec. 27-42. City to furnish quarters, file for board; opening of file.

The city shall provide proper and adequate quarters for the meetings of the board created under this division and for the purpose of holding examinations. The city shall furnish an adequate file that can be locked for all books and records relating to the business of such board.
(Code 1986, § 27-42)

Secs. 27-43 -- 27-55. Reserved.

DIVISION 3. CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY⁴

⁴ **Cross references**--Businesses, trades and occupations generally, Ch. 11; examination and certification of gas fitters and installers, § 19-86 et seq.

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Sec. 27-56. Required.

In the interest of public health, sanitation, and safety, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of plumbing, to do or perform any plumbing work or to make any plumbing installation for which a permit is required as a master plumber or journeyman plumber without first having been examined, certified and obtained a certificate of competency as such by the board created under division 2 of this article, or without having registered as an apprentice plumber as hereinafter provided in this article. "To engage in business" as used in this article shall mean "to hold or be held out to the public for hire" in the plumbing business.

(Code 1986, § 27-56)

Sec. 27-57. Application, examination required; nature of examinations.

(a) All persons now or hereafter desiring to engage in the plumbing business in the city, either as a master employer plumber or as a journeyman plumber, shall apply, in writing, to the secretary of the board created under division 2 of this article, for a certificate of competency and shall appear in person before said board and submit to an examination relative to their qualifications as a master employer plumber or a journeyman plumber, and the examinations for master plumber shall be different from that for journeyman plumber. Such examinations shall be reasonable and especially thorough so as to obtain from the applicant an understanding of the extend of his knowledge of the subjects upon which he is questioned.

(b) The applicant for a master plumber's certificate of competency must show, upon due examination, that the applicant presenting himself is of good moral character and has a satisfactory knowledge of plumbing and the laws pertaining thereto as regulated by this Code and the ordinances of the city governing the same, and he shall have a satisfactory knowledge of the fundamentals of plumbing and particularly with respect to the use and function of fixtures, soil pipes, vent pipes, drainage systems, water systems, plumbing ventilation and plumbing sanitation.

(c) The applicant for a journeyman's certificate of competency must show, upon due examination, that the applicant presenting himself is of good moral character and has a satisfactory knowledge of plumbing and the laws pertaining thereto as regulated by this Code and the ordinances of the city governing the same, and he shall have a satisfactory knowledge of the fundamentals of plumbing and must show his qualifications to install plumbing fixtures and drainage systems in a sanitary manner; and such applicant for journeyman's certificate of competency shall further show, upon examination, that

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he has practical knowledge of house drainage, plumbing ventilation and water systems and shall show evidence of four (4) years' actual work experience in the plumbing trade.

(d) Any person who shall apply for registration as an apprentice plumber upon forms provided for that purpose by the city shall be registered as such by the board created under division 2 of this article without examination and without charge, and a certificate of registration as an apprentice plumber shall be issued to such applicant, without charge.

(e) The board created under division 2 of this article may authorize issuance of a temporary journeyman plumber's certificate of competency to any applicant who shall have paid to the treasurer of the board an application fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), and who holds a valid, unrevoked journeyman's license issued by any other municipality similar to the requirements of the city for journeyman plumbers, or who, in the opinion of the board has the necessary qualifications of a journeyman. The temporary journeyman plumber's certificate of competency shall be valid only until the day the next journeyman plumber's examination is to be given. Such temporary journeyman's certificate may be revoked at any time by the board upon notice to the holder thereof; provided, further, that not more than one (1) temporary journeyman's certificate may be issued to any one (1) person.

(f) The board created under division 2 of this article may waive the examination requirements of this article and renew an expired certificate of competency of a master or journeyman plumber, other than a temporary journeyman plumber's certificate; provided that, such certificate must be renewed within five (5) years of the date of its original issuance or last renewal; and, provided further, that, the applicant for such renewal has not engaged in any activities which would require the type of certificate for which application is made within such period.

(Code 1986, § 27-57)

Sec. 27-58. Applicants from newly annexed areas.

(a) Persons engaging in the plumbing business in territory annexed to the city, as a master employer plumber whose principal business is plumbing, whose principal place of business has been located and maintained in the annexed territory for three (3) or more years next preceding the annexation of such territory, may be exempt from taking the written examination required by this chapter. The board created under division 2 of this article is authorized to issue certificates of competency as master employer plumbers to such persons who evidence a satisfactory knowledge of the fundamentals of plumbing, particularly with respect to the use and function of fixtures, soil pipes, vent pipes, drainage systems, water systems, plumbing ventilation and plumbing sanitation and who shall also evidence a satisfactory knowledge of the laws pertaining to plumbing as regulated by this Code and

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the ordinances of the city governing same. Persons desiring issuance of certificates of competency as a master employer plumber under this section shall make application therefor to the board, along with payment of the fees set out in this code, within six (6) months after the date of the annexation of the territory within which their principal place of business is located.

(b) Persons engaging in the plumbing business in territory annexed to the city, as a journeyman who have been employed by a master employer plumber whose principal place of business has been located and maintained in the annexed territory for three (3) or more years next preceding the annexation of such territory, may be exempt from taking the written examination required by this chapter. The board of plumbing examiners is authorized to issue certificates of competency as journeyman plumber to such persons who evidence five (5) years' actual work experience in the plumbing trade and who give satisfactory evidence of their knowledge of the fundamentals of plumbing and the laws pertaining thereto as regulated by this Code and the ordinances of the city governing same and who shall also evidence a satisfactory practical knowledge of the installation of plumbing fixtures, drainage systems, plumbing ventilation and water systems. Persons desiring issuance of a certificate of competency as a journeyman plumber under this section shall make application therefor to the board of plumbing examiners, along with payment of the required fees set out in this code, within six (6) months after the date of annexation of the territory within which their employer's place of business is located. (Code 1986, § 27-58)

Sec. 27-59. Passing examination; issuance.

Any applicant answering correctly seventy (70) per cent of the questions asked in the examination shall be considered qualified to pass the examination, and the board created under division 2 of this article shall issue to the applicant a certificate of competency, either as a master plumber or as a journeyman plumber, whichever the applicant may have applied for, upon payment of the required fees. Such certificate of competency shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of such board. (Code 1986, § 27-59)

Sec. 27-60. Examination fees established.

An application for a journeyman workman's certificate shall be accomplished by an examination fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and an application for a master employer's certificate shall be accompanied by an examination fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00). (Code 1986, § 27-60)

Sec. 27-61. Fees established.

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Any person who has passed the examination by the board created under division 2 of this article and is otherwise qualified to engage in work as a master plumber or a journeyman plumber shall be issued a certificate of competency by the board upon payment of the following fee:

- (1) Master employer plumber, per year or
any part thereof.....\$100.00
 - (2) Journeyman workman plumber, per year or
any part thereof 10.00
 - (3) Temporary journeyman workman plumber..... 10.00
 - (4) Apprentice plumber..... No charge
 - (5) Retired or inactive plumber..... 20.00
- (Code 1986, § 27-61)

Sec. 27-62. Disposition of fees.

The treasurer of the board created under division 2 of this article shall make a report to the city treasurer of the amount of fees collected pursuant to sections 27-57, 27-60 and 27-61 of this chapter, and shall pay the same into the city treasury within ten (10) days after the collection thereof. All expenses incurred by such board shall be paid by the city treasurer from the fees collected. Any balance left in said fund shall be held by the city treasurer subject to the order of the mayor, and in no event shall the board created under division 2 of this article incur a greater expense than that collected by it in fees.

(Code 1986, § 27-62; Ord. No. 9654, § 13, 1-6-92)

Sec. 27-63. Expiration; renewal authorized.

Each certificate of competency shall expire on the twenty-first day of June following the date of its issuance and shall be renewable without further examination upon application of the holder within thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date, and the payment of the annual fee set out above. Any applicant for a renewal who fails to make application and pay the required fee within such period of thirty (30) days, may be required to take another examination by the board created under division 2 of this article unless such applicant shows good and sufficient cause for his failure to make such

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application; provided that, if any licensee enters active service in the armed forces of the United States, he shall be granted a renewal license upon his application after discharge from such service if such application is presented to the board within six (6) months following the date of his discharge.
(Code 1986, § 27-63)

Sec. 27-64. Examination of renewal application; required.

It shall be the duty of the board created under division 2 of this article to review all applications for the renewal of any certificate, and the board shall require that each applicant for renewal shall file a statement signed by the applicant that he has not misused his license and that he has abided by this Code and the ordinances of the city pertaining to plumbing, sewers and street cut-ins. If an applicant for renewal cannot honestly file such a statement, a full explanation of these reasons must accompany the renewal application in lieu of all or part of the required statement.
(Code 1986, § 27-64)

Sec. 27-65. Scope; display required.

(a) *Journeyman.* The issuance to any applicant of a certificate of competency as a journeyman workman plumber shall entitle the holder thereof only to work as a journeyman plumber and shall not entitle him to exercise the functions of or carry on the business of a master employer plumber. The holder of a certificate of competency as a journeyman workman plumber, or a temporary journeyman certificate, shall carry such certificate with him at all times when he is engaged in plumbing work.

(b) *Master.* A certificate of competency as a master employer plumber shall entitle the holder thereof to perform only the duties of a master plumber and he shall not be assigned a permanent license number by the plumbing board. It shall be his duty to frame and display this license in a conspicuous location in his place of business.

(c) *Apprentice.* Apprentice plumbers may do any and all things done by journeyman plumbers; provided that, such work may only be done under the supervision of and in the presence of a properly certified or licensed journeyman plumber.
(Code 1986, § 27-65)

Sec. 27-66. Master's to show name of holder; duties of master.

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(a) Each certificated for a master plumber's license issued in accordance with the provisions of this article shall specify the name of the person who passed the examination, who shall be known as the holder of the certificate and as supervisor of all work done under the license.

(b) "Supervision of work" shall mean:

(1) The license holder shall be available at least three (3) days per week during normal working hours at the holder's place of business located in the general metropolitan area of the city.

(2) The business in which the holder is associated shall have a local office in the general metropolitan area and a local phone listed under the name of the firm with which he is associated.

(c) The board of plumbing examiners and the chief plumbing inspector shall be notified in writing the name of the firm with which the holder is associated.

(d) Any holder who applied as, and was licensed as, a representative of a corporation, firm or association, and who ceases to be a representative of such corporation, firm or association for whatever reason, shall immediately notify the board of such termination. The board shall immediately contact the corporation, firm or association by which the holder was employed and ascertain the current status of the bids, contracts, permits, etc., of such corporation, firm or association covering work being or to be performed within the city, and the board may, in its discretion, relieve any hardships and permit such work on a temporary basis as they deem advisable.

(e) The license holder shall have an employee to answer to telephone calls or a telephone-answering device at his place of business during normal business hours, and the license holder shall be capable of returning such calls within twenty-four (24) hours of the time they are made.

(Code 1986, § 27-66)

Sec. 27-67. Doing work without proper certificate.

(a) No person certified as a master plumber shall be entitled to perform the duties of a journeyman workman plumber unless he also holds a certificate of competency as a journeyman plumber, but no person holding himself out to the public for hire shall do any kind of plumbing work for the public, whether the same is being done by himself or whether he is merely assisting another plumber doing plumbing work, unless he shall have issued to him a certificate of competency as provided for in

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this article; provided, however, that every qualified journeyman plumber who holds a certificate of competency may have working together with him an apprentice who must be registered under the provisions of this article. Helpers digging ditches or trenches will not be required to comply with the provisions of this article when working for a licensed master plumber.

(b) It shall be unlawful for a master plumber to allow any person who is not licensed as a journeyman plumber or registered as an apprentice plumber to do any plumbing work.

(Code 1986, § 27-67)

Sec. 27-68. Licenses, certificates not transferable.

No license and certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this article shall be assignable or transferable.

(Code 1986, § 27-68)

Sec. 27-69. Suspension, revocation; denial of renewal.

(a) The board created under division 2 of this article shall revoke or suspend a certificate issued to any master plumber, journeyman or apprentice plumber upon positive proof that such person:

- (1) Knowingly violated the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of such board.
- (2) Practiced fraud or deception in making application for or obtaining certificate or registration required hereunder or any renewal thereof.
- (3) Is incompetent to perform a service to the public as a certified plumber.
- (4) Permitted his certificate or registration to be used, directly or indirectly, by another to obtain or perform plumbing work or services.
- (5) Is guilty of such other unprofessional or dishonorable conduct of such nature as to deceive or defraud the public.
- (6) Failed to comply with the sections of this chapter of this Code, the requirements of the plumbing code, or repeatedly failed to obtain permits required before commencing work.

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- (7) Obtained a permit, directly or indirectly, for another unless the license holder shall be the supervisor of all work covered by the permit; provided, however, that, supervisors of work, as herein used, shall have the same meaning as set out in section 27-66 of this chapter.
- (8) Received from another any compensation wherein the sole consideration therefor is the obtaining of a permit for plumbing work.

(b) The board may disapprove any renewal of a certificate when the applicant has misused his license, has made any intentional misstatement on such application, or has been guilty of any act or conduct which would constitute grounds for revocation or suspension of a certificate as herein provided; provided, however, the board shall not disapprove any renewal until after the applicant has been accorded an opportunity to be heard after five (5) days' notice by registered mail or personal service of such a notice.

(c) No action of the board to suspend or revoke a certificate of competency or registration shall become final until the alleged offender has been given an opportunity to appear before the board to show cause as to why such action should not be taken.

(d) Notice, in writing, of the proposed action of the board to revoke or suspend a certificate shall be given to the holder of such certificate, stating the specific charges upon which such action is based. The notice shall stipulate that a hearing will be scheduled at a time and place set by the board for the aggrieved party to show cause why such action should not be made final. Such hearing shall not be held less than five (5) days following notice to the aggrieved party. Failure to appear before the board to answer the specific charges set forth in the notice shall be deemed just cause for final revocation or suspension of a certificate.

(Code 1986, § 27-69)

Sec. 27-70. Appeals from board.

Any person aggrieved by any action or decision of the board created under division 2 of this article shall have the right of appeal to the board of adjustment and appeals by requesting an appeal in writing and by lodging such request with the chief plumbing inspector of the city within ten (10) days after said action or decision.

(Code 1986, § 27-70)